

Promoting Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation

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**2020-2021 Board of Directors:**

President: Susan Hauser

[President@lwvalameda.org](mailto:President@lwvalameda.org)

VP Admin: Anne McKereghan

[VPAdmin@lwvalameda.org](mailto:VPAdmin@lwvalameda.org)

VP Membership: Doris Gee

[VPMembership@lwvalameda.org](mailto:VPMembership@lwvalameda.org)

VP Programs: William Smith

[VPPrograms@lwvalameda.org](mailto:VPPrograms@lwvalameda.org)

Secretary: Ashley Lorden

[Secretary@lwvalameda.org](mailto:Secretary@lwvalameda.org)

Treasurer: Anna Crane

[Treasurer@lwvalameda.org](mailto:Treasurer@lwvalameda.org)

Action Chair: Karen Butter

[ActionChair@lwvalameda.org](mailto:ActionChair@lwvalameda.org)

Communications Chair:

Keasha Martindill

[Communications@lwvalameda.org](mailto:Communications@lwvalameda.org)

Development Chair: Sheila Durkin

[Development@lwvalameda.org](mailto:Development@lwvalameda.org)

LWVBA Liaisons: Sally Faulhaber  
and Kate Quick

[Liaison@lwvalameda.org](mailto:Liaison@lwvalameda.org)

Voter Service Co-Chairs: Ken  
Werner and Barbara Price

[VoterService@lwvalameda.org](mailto:VoterService@lwvalameda.org)

Youth Outreach: Laura Kinley

[YouthOutreach@lwvalameda.org](mailto:YouthOutreach@lwvalameda.org)

**The League of Women Voters**  
encourages informed and active  
participation in government. The  
League does not support or oppose  
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**Voter Editor: M. Kazda**

[The-VOTER@lwvalameda.org](mailto:The-VOTER@lwvalameda.org)



## Calendar of League of Women Voters Events

Visit [LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html](http://LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html) for more information

### Vote in the 2020 General Elections

**Sunday, 1 Nov – Monday, 2 Nov**

9:00am-5:00pm

You can vote early and in-person in Alameda County. Find an Accessible Voting Location at [acgov.org/rovapps/maps/avl/](http://acgov.org/rovapps/maps/avl/) or a ballot drop box at [acgov.org/rovapps/maps/balлотdropbox\\_map](http://acgov.org/rovapps/maps/balлотdropbox_map).

**Tuesday, 3 Nov**

7:00am-8:00pm

Vote on Election Day in California. See the links above.

### City of Alameda - 2020 Community Service Awards - Virtual Ceremony

**Thursday, 5 Nov**

6:30-8:30pm

Online. The City of Alameda will honor this year's recipients at the Seventh Annual Community Service Awards Ceremony. Register to attend at [tinyurl.com/y3a7unla](http://tinyurl.com/y3a7unla).

### Alameda's 2040 General Plan

**Mondays: 9 Nov, 14 Dec**

Starts at 7:00pm

Online. See page 5 for more info. Register to attend at [alameda2040.org/engage](http://alameda2040.org/engage).

### New Member Drop-in Lunch & Evening Gatherings

**Wednesday, 11 Nov at 7pm & Thursday, 12 Nov at 12pm**

Online. See page 5 for more info. RSVP to Doris Gee at [vpmembership@lwvalameda.org](mailto:vpmembership@lwvalameda.org).

### Board Meetings

**Thursdays: 19 Nov and 21 Jan**

7:00-9:00pm

Online. Non-board members may email [info@lwvalameda.org](mailto:info@lwvalameda.org) to receive an invitation to the online meeting.

### Book Club Meetings

**Mondays: 23 Nov, 25 Jan**

3:00-4:30pm

Online. The book for 23 Nov is "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin DiAngelo and Michael Dyson. The book for 25 Jan is TBD. RSVP to Marilyn Ng at [mjkl@yahoo.com](mailto:mjkl@yahoo.com).

### LWVA Holiday Party Online

**Friday: 4 Dec**

5:30pm-7:00pm

Stay Tuned!

### First Friday Social Hour Gatherings

**Fridays: 6 Nov & 8 Jan**

5:30-6:30pm

Online. RSVP to [vpadmin@lwvalameda.org](mailto:vpadmin@lwvalameda.org), and we will send you a link to participate.

### General Membership Meeting: Program Planning

**Saturday: 30 Jan**

1:00pm-3:00pm

Location: Online. Calling all members. We will meet to recommend education and advocacy priorities for our local League and the State League.

## LWV of Alameda Fall Highlights

It has been a challenging year: a pandemic combined with a Presidential Election, Census outreach, and a unique opportunity in California to fund our schools and communities through Proposition 15. But despite being busy on many fronts, our LWV of Alameda members and volunteers have accomplished a lot. Here are some notable highlights from the fall of 2020:

- *VerifyIt!* – our online, single player game, designed to help young people discern news media bias, understand their voting rights, and become active, informed citizens – has been a smashing success. Since it debuted in early September, the game has been played over 10,000 times. *Thank you, VerifyIt! Team: Laura Kinley, Linda Bytof, Sheila Durkin, and Wendy Shiraki-Raphael.*
- We held four voter forums on Zoom (streaming three of them on Facebook Live), which we had never done before. Nonetheless, we received praise from the community on how professionally these forums were conducted, and these virtual events were well attended. Our in-person forums usually attract an average of 60 attendants, but our Zoom forums averaged 105 viewers. *Thank you to Barbara Price for organizing these forums; Susan Hauser and Anne McKereghan for moderating, and providing opening and closing statements; Keasha Martindill for hosting; Anna Crane, Bill Smith, and Karen Butter for presenting; and Jessica Barrett, Courtenay Davis, and Ken Werner for assisting.*
- On National Voter Registration Day, we held a masked, socially distanced, in-person event outside Daisy's on Park Street where our volunteers helped several individuals get registered to vote. Two days later, we similarly helped more people to register to vote at a Census Outreach event for the homeless at The Village of Love. *Thank you to Ken Werner for organizing our voter registration efforts; and Mari Clark, Susan Driscoll, Sally Faulhaber, Doris Gee, Anne McKereghan, Kate Quick, Marcie Soslau, and Denise Zacharais for volunteering.*
- We created bookmarks with a quick reader code to the California Secretary of State's register to vote website. Aim your phone's camera at the code and the website appears. The Alameda Free Library, Alameda Food Bank and the Alameda Point Collaborative handed out our bookmarks, which were quite popular: we distributed over 3,000 in Alameda. *Thank you to Ken Werner, Keasha Martindill, and Wendy Shiraki-Raphael for creating the bookmarks; and Karen Butter, Sheila Durkin, Susan Hauser, and Ken Werner for coordinating their distribution.*
- Our volunteers created a set of well-reasoned Pros & Cons documents for local ballot measures which were placed on our website at [lwvalameda.org/pros--cons](http://lwvalameda.org/pros--cons). Over the span of three months, Internet users clicked on that webpage over 3,400 times. In fact, it was responsible for 37% of visits to the LWV of Alameda website. *Thank you to Linda Bytof, Karen Butter, Anna Crane, Irene Dieter, Shuba Fanse, Susan Hauser, Anne McKereghan, Allan Mann, Barbara Price, Neil Rubenstein, Bill Smith, and Lena Tam for creating the LWV of Alameda Pros & Cons.*
- For a third election cycle, we provided voters with a service unique to our League: we published easy to read information about who was funding local candidates and ballot measures. (Note: the data was updated on 22 October, and you can see all the charts and tables at [lwvalameda.org/alameda-campaign-finance-review](http://lwvalameda.org/alameda-campaign-finance-review).) *Thank you to Allan Mann for creating these charts and tables; and Karen Butter, Anna Crane, Anne McKereghan, Ruth Dixon-Mueller for vetting the data and its display.*

- In coordination with the AAUW–Alameda Branch, we conducted a two-part moderated Town Hall discussion with the Alameda Police Department. Our purpose was to educate Alamedans about current police operations and policies so that our community can make informed decisions about proposed reforms. So far, these Town Hall videos have attracted over 200 views, and received positive press by the Alameda Sun and by a local blogger with a wide readership in Alameda. (If you missed the Town Halls, you may view them at [lwvalameda.org/Community-Events](http://lwvalameda.org/Community-Events).) Thank you to Susan Hauser for providing the opening and closing comments; Michelle Ellson for moderating; Keasha Martindill for hosting; and Karen Butter, Andrea Carlisle, Serena Chen, Irene Dieter, Mark Hamilton, Marilyn Ng, Bill Smith, and Lena Tam for creating the agenda, background documents, and questions.
- Our League heavily promoted the Schools and Community First (Prop. 15) ballot initiative on social media, in our eBlasts, via lawn signs, in two newspaper ads and three letters to the editor, and at two online community forums. Thank you to Bill Smith for spearheading this effort; Wendy Shiraki-Raphael for creating eye-catching ads; and Andrea Carlise, Susan Hauser, Ashley Lorden, Anna Crane, Anne McKereghan, Keasha Martindill, Kate Quick, and Jenn Heflin Witt for promoting Prop. 15.

To all LWV of Alameda members and friends: we most heartily thank you for your efforts, support, and donations these past few challenging months. You have helped us empower voters and defend democracy!

### **Alameda Volunteer of the Year: Karen Butter** – Doris Gee

Congratulations to member Karen Butter, who has been named the City of Alameda’s Volunteer of the Year. This award, which is part of the City’s Seventh Annual Community Service Awards, recognizes extraordinary service to our community for a period of 10 or more years.

Karen started her membership with the League of Women Voters in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she was president in 1988. Later after moving to Alameda, she was on the Board from 1994-2001, later becoming the President from 1996-1998. She remains very involved in our League currently serving as the Chair of the Action Committee. Additionally, she has been active with Alameda City Library Board since 2000 serving on the board, and currently, she serves as the President.

The City of Alameda will honor this year’s Community Service Award recipients at an online ceremony on Thursday, 5 November starting at 6:30pm. This event is open to the public and is free of charge. To attend, register at [tinyurl.com/y3a7unla](http://tinyurl.com/y3a7unla).

### **Alameda’s 2040 General Plan** – Bill Smith & Keasha Martindill

What is the City of Alameda’s 2040 General Plan? From the Alameda2040.org website:

The 2040 Alameda General Plan is a statement of community goals, objectives, policies and actions to guide our island community in addressing the challenges facing us today and in the future. It contains policies that guide neighborhood design, climate action, managed growth, transportation and mobility, public safety, environmental protection, equity, and preservation of the characteristics that make Alameda so unique.

Contribute to the future of our city by sharing your input on this plan! Alamedans can comment by snail-mail or the Alameda2040.org website, join an online discussion, or take a survey. See [alameda2040.org/engage](http://alameda2040.org/engage).

How can you get informed on this plan? You may review the draft online at [alameda2040.org/document-library](http://alameda2040.org/document-library). You may also attend an online discussion. Two of these have already been held, but you can watch the videos of these events or download pdfs about them at [alameda2040.org/engage](http://alameda2040.org/engage). Mark your calendar for two remaining forums at 7pm on 9 November and 14 December (see the previous website link for details.)

The topics of the online discussions are the same as the surveys available at [alameda2040.org/surveys](http://alameda2040.org/surveys):

- Developing a Healthy, Equitable, and Inclusive City (Sep. forum)
- Preservation and Enhancement of Alameda's Unique Historic Neighborhood Character (Oct. forum)
- Protecting the Environment and Responding to the Climate Crisis Locally and Regionally (Nov. forum)
- Enhancing Mobility, Accessibility, and Life on an Island (Dec. forum)

Take one or more of the surveys, which will be open until January 2021.

Alameda's 2040 General Plan will replace the current plan (last updated in 1990) and shape our community for decades to come. Regardless of whether the City of Alameda's Measure Z passes, this General Plan could meaningfully impact the Northern Waterfront, Alameda Point, Southshore, and maybe even Coast Guard Island.

The Alameda City Council would like to approve this draft plan the summer of 2021. Want to help track the General Plan activities or help with community outreach? Email Bill Smith at [vpprograms@lwvalameda.org](mailto:vpprograms@lwvalameda.org).

### **Oakland Alameda Access Project**

This project "proposes to improve connectivity between I-880, I-980 and the cities of Oakland and Alameda," according to [alamedaact.org](http://alamedaact.org). There is an ongoing public comment period will conclude after Monday, 30 November. Formal comments may be submitted in multiple ways that include email to [oakland.alameda.access@dot.ca.gov](mailto:oakland.alameda.access@dot.ca.gov) or phone call to (510) 880-4195.

You may read more about the project at [oaklandalamedaaccessproject.com](http://oaklandalamedaaccessproject.com), and sign-up for project updates at [tinyurl.com/yxkfoxa3](http://tinyurl.com/yxkfoxa3).

### **Membership Report** – Doris Gee

The League of Women Voters of Alameda now has 145 members. In fact, we gained 16 new members this past summer and fall: Laura Becker, Kevis Brownson, Meera Chary, Courtenay Davis, Sandra Hoffman-Dorrance, Kat Velayo-Greenberg, Gabi von Ingersleben, CJ Kingsley, Amy Laurence, Molly Mills, Andrew Roin, Libby Roin, Alexis Roizen, Heather Steiny, Angela Wuerth, and Denise Zachariah. Welcome to the League, new members!

Our Membership Committee will hold new member drop-in lunch and evening gatherings on Zoom. But all are welcome to join us and welcome our new members. Email me at [vpmembership@lwvalameda.org](mailto:vpmembership@lwvalameda.org) to attend:

- Evening: Wednesday, 11 Nov from 7:00pm to 7:30pm.
- Lunch: Thursday, 12 Nov from 12:00pm to 12:30pm.

For new members, we are offering three months free: those who join in October, November, and December will not have to pay dues until January 2021.

The next meeting of the Membership Committee is Tuesday, 10 November at 9am; email me at the address above to attend.

## Youth Outreach – Laura Kinley

We had a rare opportunity to represent the LWV of Alameda at Alameda High School's Adulting 101 Club. It has members from all grades (9 - 12) and its purpose is to educate members on topics not covered in school, but necessary to real adult life. In just 35 minutes, the club members were "hoping to gain more information about voting, political parties, and how to understand what is on the ballot when it is our time to vote."

Linda Bytof created a fast-paced PowerPoint with examples of current issues that high school age students are interested in, information on how to use *VerifyIt!* and the voting rules and regulations in California. (View the slideshow at [tinyurl.com/y67sv7fa](http://tinyurl.com/y67sv7fa).)

I then gave a PowerPoint tour of the LWV of California website, and the LWV of Alameda website, giving extra time to our Pros and Cons section, and the Money in Politics screen that states "Elections should be about the voters not big money interests." Then I got to show off the Alameda Campaign Finance section.

I finished with an exercise by applying League guidance on how to evaluate ballot measures to Proposition 18 (voting rights for certain 17-year olds) and Measure W (a sales tax intended for services to the homeless).

The Civics teacher/advisor was so impressed with *VerifyIt!* that she assigned playing the game to her 12<sup>th</sup> grade class, and made part of the assignment to write feedback on a series of eight questions, which she passed along to us. She also thanked us for "creating something fun for youth to engage with in civics!"

## Presidential Election 2020

Don't expect to hear a winner declared in the U.S. Presidential race the night of 3 November. But here are the key swing states to watch (according to FiveThirtyEight.com) and an estimate of how quickly each might tally their votes (per *The New York Times*: see article with information about all states at [tinyurl.com/yxanldar](http://tinyurl.com/yxanldar)).

<u>State</u>	<u>Timing of Results</u>
Arizona	No estimate.
Colorado	Mid-day (EST) on Wed, 4 Nov: 75-80% of ballots.
Florida	8:30pm (EST) on Tue, 3 Nov: all early voting/previously tabulated mail ballots.
Georgia	Could take days for large volume of mail ballots to be scanned & counted.
Michigan	Full unofficial results could take until Friday, 6 Nov.
Minnesota	Noon (EST) on Wed, 4 Nov: 100% of ballots.
Nebraska	No estimate.
New Hampshire	No estimate.
Nevada	No estimate.
North Carolina	By early Wed, 4 Nov: 98% of ballots.
Ohio	8:00pm (EST) on Tue, 3 Nov: all ballots cast before Election Day.
Pennsylvania	By Fri, 6 Nov: a majority of ballots.
Texas	No estimate.
Wisconsin	6:00am (EST) on Wed, 6 Nov: full results.